



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the  
3 State of Illinois recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Freedom  
4 Fighters of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution; and

5 WHEREAS, On October 23, 1956, hundreds of thousands of  
6 Hungarians from all walks of life would join university  
7 students in a peaceful call for democracy and an end to the  
8 brutal and oppressive Soviet-dominated Hungarian communist  
9 government; and

10 WHEREAS, Peaceful protests were fired upon by the Hungarian  
11 Security Police, killing hundreds and triggering the bloody  
12 fight for freedom and democracy and the first tear in the Iron  
13 Curtain; and

14 WHEREAS, Thousands of Hungarians, students and workers,  
15 men, women, and children, would rise up against impossible odds  
16 and risk their lives to take part in their noble fight for  
17 freedom and democracy; and

18 WHEREAS, The Hungarian Freedom Fighters, students and  
19 workers, men, women, and children, who rose up against  
20 impossible odds and risked their lives to take part in their  
21 noble fight for freedom and democracy, were able to establish a  
22 revolutionary government that released political prisoners,  
23 including major church leaders, took steps to create a  
24 multi-party democracy, called for the withdrawal of all Soviet  
25 troops from Hungary, announced Hungary's withdrawal from the  
26 Warsaw Pact, and requested United Nations assistance in  
27 establishing neutrality; and

28 WHEREAS, The Soviet Union launched a massive military  
29 counter-offensive against the revolt, sending tens of  
30 thousands of additional troops from the Soviet Union, and

1 launched air strikes, artillery bombardments, and coordinated  
2 tank-infantry actions involving some 6,000 tanks which,  
3 remarkably, the outnumbered and under-equipped Hungarian Army  
4 and Hungarian Freedom Fighters resisted for several days; and

5 WHEREAS, Prime Minister Imre Nagy was seized by Soviet  
6 security forces, despite assurances of safe passage for him to  
7 leave the Yugoslav Embassy of Budapest where he sought asylum,  
8 and was taken to Rumania and subsequently tried and executed;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Thousands of Hungarians were tortured, tried, and  
11 executed by the post-1956 Hungarian government; and

12 WHEREAS, More than 200,000 Hungarians fled their country in  
13 the aftermath of the Soviet suppression of the Hungarian  
14 uprising, and over 47,000 of these people eventually were able  
15 to settle in the United States, where they have contributed  
16 greatly to the intellectual strength, cultural diversity, and  
17 the economic might of the country; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
19 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
20 we do hereby proclaim October 23, 2006, as Hungarian Freedom  
21 Fighters Day in Illinois and encourage all citizens to express  
22 thanks to those refugees who brought their talents, skills, and  
23 love of freedom to help build a stronger America.